their clinics hygienically and to curb the serious menace of transmission of HIV through dental clinics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir. There is no data indicating transmission of HIV by dental clinics. However, transmission of HIV/AIDS through dental clinics is not ruled out. All dental clinics, hospitals & other health care facilities are given guidelines on Prevention of Hospital acquired Infection (HIC). In addition HIC practices in hospitals are being monitored by Hospital Infection Control Committees.

(b) and (c) All dental clinics in Government hospital are required to adhere to highest level of hygiene/sterilization, hospital Infection control and safe waste disposal practices. National AIDS Control Organisation had developed a module on Standard Operating Procedure and Hospital Infection Control that is used in various training workshops.

Leprosy awareness Campaign

1954. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the mission launched by the International Leprosy Union regarding awareness campaign and educating people against stigma attached to it;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate the disease and spread awareness in the society to stop hatred for leprosy patient since it is a curable disease now;

(c) the percentage of leprosy patients in the country and the action taken to rehabilitate them; and

(d) the success achieved so far, to eliminate leprosy disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) International Lepropsy Union is a Non-governmental organization and is carrying out awareness activities in leprosy. As and when invited the State programme offices attend such fucntions and provide programme information.

(b) The National leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored programme for elimination of leprosy and is already in operation. Information Education and Communication (IEC) is a strong component of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme. Other strategies for leprosy elimination are:—

(i) Availability of Integrated leprosy services from all Primary Health Centres and Hospitals, both Government and Non-government.

(ii) Decentralization of leprosy service planning and implementation to the State and districts.

(iii) Training of all General Health Service staff to enable them to provide quality leprosy services.

(iv) IEC through Mass Media as well as interpersonal communciation at peripheral level.

(v) *Prevention of Deformity and care.*

(c) The country detected 230215 new leprosy cases during the current eyar (April, 2004 to January, 2005) which comes to 0.02% of population. Only about 1.57% of the new leprosy patients have visible deformity. The programme provides for Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) to correct deformity wherever needed, so that the disabilities are removed and the person can work.

(d) The country is progressing well toward the goal of leprosy elimination by December, 2005 at National Level. As on 31st January, 2005, the prevalence rate of leprosy has reached the level of 1.86 cases per 10,000 population.

Increase in AIDS/TB/Cancer Cases

1955. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the Cancer, AIDS, TB case in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?